Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks etc. It has been decided to continue this programme during the 10th Plan period also.

Moreover, the Government of India has announced a special package on 14.5.2001 for strengthening the Khadi and Village Industries sector, which *inter-alia* includes provisions for renovation and modernisation of sales outlets, Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building and cluster development, technology upgradation, quality control, marketing through publicity and advertisement etc.

Improvement of Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3794. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to diversify activities of Khadi and Village Industries Commission to improve its financial health; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the KVIC Act, already has mandate to take up all activities related to promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries.

(b) Does not arise.